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# Assembly California Legislature



**YOUNG O. KIM**  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, SIXTY-FIFTH DISTRICT

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SUBCOMMITTEES  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2  
ON EDUCATION FINANCE

February 23, 2016

Dr. Michael Kirst, President  
California State Board of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Adoption of the Draft *History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools***

Dear Dr. Kirst and Board Members,

I write to commend the Instructional Quality Commission's approval of the draft History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools in the second field review on November 20, 2015 that includes the subject of "comfort women" to be taught to 10<sup>th</sup> Grade students.

During the Japanese occupation of Korea and China during and after World War II, as many as 200,000 sexual slaves—"comfort women"—were abducted and exploited by the Imperial Japanese Army. As one of the largest cases of human trafficking in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it is imperative that we include its teaching to our high school students.

As you may be aware, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe recently issued a formal apology to the Republic of Korea for the grave affront to the honor and dignity of these women, expressing "remorse to all the women who underwent immeasurable and painful experiences and suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women." Because of this agreement in the international community, this content standard should be viewed as non-controversial.

The adoption of the draft History-Social Science Framework that includes the teaching of "comfort women" will shed light on the atrocities of sexual slavery and exploitation experienced by these Korean women.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Y. Kim", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Young O. Kim  
Assemblywoman, 65<sup>th</sup> District